

To: Schmit, Ayn[Schmit.Ayn@epa.gov]
From: Jewett, David
Sent: Tue 7/29/2014 2:53:22 PM
Subject: RE: CS Tribune: Wyoming to test for same groundwater pollutants in Pavillion
EPA-600-R-14-008-Schumacher Interlaboratory 7-9-14.pdf

Ayn,

The lab study (attached), which was finally released, is dated January 2014. Brian sent it out late last week, so I assume it is “published.” Just a note, it is a multi-laboratory verification of the method. Which means other labs (other than the R3 lab); EPA, federal and commercial; have tested and verified the method. Nothing has been promulgated by EPA and I expect there will still be push-back and foot-dragging by “others.” Still the verification report is out.

- dgj -

David G. Jewett, Ph.D.

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From: Schmit, Ayn
Sent: Monday, July 28, 2014 6:31 PM
To: Jewett, David
Subject: RE: CS Tribune: Wyoming to test for same groundwater pollutants in Pavillion

Thanks, Dave- do you know if it actually was published last week?

Ayn

From: Jewett, David
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 6:55 AM
To: Wilkin, Rick; Schmit, Ayn
Subject: RE: CS Tribune: Wyoming to test for same groundwater pollutants in Pavillion

Ayn and Rick,

According to Brian Schumacher (NERL-LV), who coordinated the study, an EPA report on the method and multi-lab study is to be released this week (likely on Friday). He is going to send a copy when it is released (depending on format; if he can't send a copy immediately, he will provide the citation). Brian also said that, in addition to the EPA labs that participated in the study, one commercial laboratory and one governmental laboratory (non-EPA) participated in the study.

I will forward any information I receive from Brian.

- dgj -

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From: Jewett, David

Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 11:54 AM

To: Wilkin, Rick; Schmit, Ayn

Subject: RE: CS Tribune: Wyoming to test for same groundwater pollutants in Pavillion

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

- dgj -

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From: Wilkin, Rick

Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 11:17 AM

To: Schmit, Ayn; Jewett, David

Subject: RE: CS Tribune: Wyoming to test for same groundwater pollutants in Pavillion

Hi Ayn – all very interesting. Suspected it would eventually come back to this, as it should.

You should expect to get a draft of the EPA report.

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

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Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process The report was prepared out of the NERL Las Vegas lab.

The contact is Brian Schumacher.

Rick

Richard T. Wilkin, Ph.D.

Geochemist

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From: Schmit, Ayn

Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 10:46 AM

To: Jewett, David; Wilkin, Rick

Subject: FW: CS Tribune: Wyoming to test for same groundwater pollutants in Pavillion

Hey, y'all. You may find the following somewhat entertaining (or not). But Wyoming has asked us to provide them with the information about the verified LC-MS-MS glycols method.

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

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Thanks for your help with this. btw, when asked at the recent public meeting why they weren't sampling the MWs, they said they hadn't ruled it out.

Ayn

From: Mylott, Richard

Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 3:20 PM

To: Beeler, Cindy; Schmit, Ayn; Oberley, Gregory; Hestmark, Martin; Parker, Robert

Cc: McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa

Subject: CS Tribune: Wyoming to test for same groundwater pollutants in Pavillion

Fyi.

Wyoming to test for same groundwater pollutants in Pavillion

[\(0\) Comments](#)

PAVILLION -- State officials said Thursday that they intend to test the Pavillion area's groundwater for nearly all the potential pollutants examined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in its study of the region's water supplies.

That news drew criticism from some area landowners, who contend that their water was contaminated by a nearby natural gas field. They questioned state officials' decision to leave one pollutant off the list because only EPA laboratories tested for the chemical, a glycol surfactant.

"Why did we spend a year and a half ripping EPA apart to say we don't have EPA's capability?" said John Fenton, chairman of the Pavillion Area Concerned Citizens Association.

Testing procedure has long been at the center of the controversy over the source of groundwater contamination east of Pavillion. A preliminary investigation by the EPA concluded that the cause was natural gas operations from a nearby field.

But the agency's analysis was criticized for its procedure. Critics said water samples weren't tested in a timely manner, as called for under the agency's own guidelines, among other factors.

The EPA turned over its investigation into Pavillion to the state last year.

The state investigation is divided into several parts. The Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission is studying the integrity of the natural gas wells and disposal pits where produced water is stored after production. The Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality is studying drinking water quality.

Mark Thiesse, DEQ groundwater section manager, said there would be a "couple of minor differences" between the sampling done by DEQ and that done previously by EPA and the U.S. Geological Survey.

The state will also test for potential bacteria, pesticides and herbicides. He noted that DEQ hired an independent third party to ensure all samples are treated in accordance with testing standards.

A long-standing criticism of the EPA study is that it did not account for the possibility of agricultural contamination.

The reason the glycol surfactant was left off the list is that only EPA labs tested for it, Thiesse said. An EPA representative at the meeting later said the test had recently been approved for other labs.

"Everything we can think of we will look at," Thiesse said. "We don't have any focus, any preconceived views. We're taking a fresh look at this."

None of the state's studies is expected anytime soon. The oil and gas commission's well integrity study is complete but is being reviewed by an independent expert.

The study will then be sent to Encana, the owner of the natural gas field in question, and the EPA for review before a draft is released to the public.

The disposal pit study is a couple of weeks from completion and will follow the same process before release. The DEQ study, which will again follow the same procedure, is expected to be made public by November.

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